

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical element retracting mechanism includes a linearly movable ring, a swingable holder positioned inside and supporting the linearly movable ring; a holding device holding the swingable holder, and a retracting device which rotates the swingable holder about a pivot such that the retractable optical element retracts to a position which deviates from the optical axis. The holding device includes an adjusting shaft and includes 5 an eccentric pin, wherein the eccentric pin is engaged with the swingable holder to set a limit for rotational movement of the swingable holder, and a spring which biases the swingable holder to rotate the swingable holder in an advancing direction to engage the swingable holder 10 with the eccentric pin. A position of the retractable optical element is varied in the operational state, in 15 a plane generally orthogonal to the optical axis, by a rotation of the adjusting shaft.